

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-19 and 21-27 are pending in this application. Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice as being non-statutory. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-19, drawn to a vaccine composition and a mucosal adjuvant comprised of interferon  $\alpha$ ;
- II. Claim 20, drawn to the use of interferon  $\alpha$  for producing a mucosal adjuvant;
- III. Claims 21-27, drawn to methods for inducing mucosal immunity.

In response, Applicants elect Group I, which is drawn to a vaccine composition and a mucosal adjuvant comprised of interferon  $\alpha$ . Claims readable thereon include claims 1-19. The foregoing election is made with traverse. Applicants further elect the species of Claim 2 for search proposes only.


Group I has been elected and Group II has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner join Group III with elected Group I and examine all the claims on their merits. Applicants assert that no undue burden exists to examine all of the claims. Substantially the same subject matter needs to be search for the compositions of Group I as for the methods of Group III. Moreover, once the subject matter of Group I is found allowable, the subject matter of Group III, which is commensurate in scope with the allowable subject matter of Group I, will need to be joined as a matter of right. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the all the pending claims be joined and examined at an early date.

Appl. No. 10/674,581  
Amdt. dated April 7, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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